WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Approval of TV serials

*663. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms adopted for giving approval to TV serials;

(b) whether many irregularities have been noticed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against guilty persons/officers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are separate guidelines for processing of proposals of TV serials telecast on Doordarshan under sponsored and commissioned categories. The proposals for sponsored serials are first considered by the Evaluation Committee, and those recommended by this Committee are put to the Selection Committee which consists of senior officials of Doordarshan and outside experts from various fields.

The proposals of serials under commissioned category are first evaluated by Evaluation Committee which consists of senior officials of Doordarshan and outside experts from various fields. Thereafter, the short listed programmes are put up to the Costing Committee for final decision.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has also intimated that these guidelines are strictly followed by Doordarshan. Programme matters of Doordarshan, including selection of serials, are under the purview of Prasar Bharati, which is fully empowered to take decisions in this regard. Necessary action to deal with cases of irregularities is taken in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

Anti-piracy body for film and music industries

*666. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a National Anti-piracy Umbrella Body for the film and music industries, as suggested by the CII-Ernst and Young Report on Entertainment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of other recommendations made in the report and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The CII-Ernst and Young report has *inter-alia* recommended that "at the National level the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should create a Central Board with Secretary level representation from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Home Ministry as well as prominent representatives from the film industry. The functions of the Board would be:

- Send directives to the State Governments on steps to be taken to curb piracy and to coordinate the activities of all the States. The directives could be:
    - To create anti-piracy cells at State Police wherein complaints with regard to piracy can be lodged;
    - To create special anti-piracy cells in courts where cases with regard to piracy can be registered and dealt with;
    - To ensure that the "Officer on Special Duty" at the anti-piracy cells has a strong and clean image;
    - To create awareness on the menace of piracy and how it is affecting the Government revenues and the industry."

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is the nodal Ministry for administration of the Copyright Act 1957. The Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council (CEAC) in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is a central level body to look into copyright matters. The CEAC comprises representatives from the film, music and software fields as also State Police Chiefs and representatives of concerned Ministries. The responsibility of enforcing the Copyright Act rests with the Police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright enforcement cells have been set up in most of the States/Union Territory administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such matters.

Other recommendations made by the CII-Ernst and Young Report in respect of piracy are:—

- Public condemnation of piracy by Governments.
- Publication of Court decisions.
- Amendment of Copyright laws.
- Enactment of an Optical Disc Law.

In view of the existence of a central level body, i.e., the Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council, functioning on the basis of Interministerial consultations there appears to be no necessity to constitute another national anti-piracy umbrella body. Public condemnation of piracy by public figures holding of seminars and workshops for this purpose and amendment to the Copyright Act as required is undertaken from time to time. The last major amendment of the Act was in 1994.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several initiatives to mitigate piracy as follows:—

(i) On the basis of a recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been entrusted with the task of formulating appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy work.

(ii) to create an anti-piracy mind-set and to promote cooperation among stakeholders, this Ministry has recently brought film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators together, and they have jointly resolved not to exhibit films without valid permission from the copyright holders.

(iii) In an effort to check cable piracy, the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or retransmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a license by the Copyright holder.

(iv) Under the 10th Plan, the Ministry has allocated funds especially for anti-piracy work.

(v) A recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, that a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax

to be imposed by the State Governments could be 60% since high rate of entertainment tax facilitates piracy, has been communicated to all State Governments.

Compensation to gardener killed in terrorists attack

†*667. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of C.P.W.D. are refusing even to talk to the family members of the gardener of their Department who was killed by the terrorists in Parliament House on 13th December, 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the family has not received any assistance from the aforesaid Department, so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to issue urgent orders for providing financial assistance to the said family?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The details of payment made to the family of the gardener who was killed by the terrorists in Parliament House on 13th December 2001 are as under:

(A) Following *ex-gratia* payments have been made to widow of Late Shri Deshraj:

a.	*Ex-gratia* payment sanctioned by the Ministry and paid *vide* cheque No. 086520 dated 17.12.2001	Rs. 5,00,000
b.	Payment received from Vice President *vide* cheque No. 043412 dated 14.12.2001	Rs. 50,000
c.	Payment made by Parliament	Rs. 4,50,000
	In addition the following payment have been received by Smt. Munesh Devi from other sources:	
(i)	Payment made from Prime Minister's Relief Fund	Rs. 1,00,000
(ii)	Payment made by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha	Rs. 1,00,000
(iii)	Payment made by Commissioner of Police, Delhi.	Rs. 1,00,000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.